DETAILED ACTION

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Harry F. Smith on July 16, 2010 and July 21, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

1.-7. Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~processing with~~ operating a computer reservation system, ~~that comprises a plurality of engines and databases, a user request from a user station, wherein information on selling prices relating to travel products is calculated, by accessing a fare database, and is returned to the user station,~~ comprising:

creating by the computer reservation system a fare family database ~~for the definition of~~ defining a plurality of fare families each comprised of a plurality of fare classes, the fare family database containing determination rules for determining an association of at least one fare family for each fare class, each fare class being defined according to commercial parameters and services,

receiving from a user station, via an interface of the computer reservation system, a user request for information relating to travel products comprised of priced travel solutions for at least one travel date,

searching with at least one search engine of the computer reservation system at least a travel segment database and a fare database for travel solutions meeting input criteria of the user request ~~and searching for~~ to determine a selling price amount associated ~~to~~ with each travel solution in ~~application of its~~ accordance with an associated fare class, ~~thereby forming~~ to form identified travel products ~~made of~~ comprised of priced travel solutions,

accessing by the computer reservation system the determination rules contained in the fare family database,

applying with a fare fixing engine of the computer reservation system the determination rules to the ~~found~~ identified travel products to determine ~~their~~ a fare family associated with each identified travel product,

sorting the ~~found~~ identified travel products by their associated determined fare family, [[and]]

building a reply to the user request, said reply configured to produce a display of data relating to [[the]] those identified travel products that meet the input criteria, said display of data comprising, for each ~~displayed~~ identified travel product, a selling price amount, the ~~displayed~~ identified travel products being sorted when displayed into fare families each comprised of a plurality of fare classes, and

outputting the reply for display to a user that originated the user request.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the user request includes several dates, and further comprising:

identifying a lowest selling price travel product that meets the input criteria and has the lowest selling price amount for each travel date,

returning information relating to the lowest selling price travel products to the user
station, for display,

in response to the user selecting one of the lowest selling price travel products
displayed, receiving a request for detailed information from the user station in
connection with the selected lowest selling price travel product,

returning to the user station for display a reply containing information relating to the
selected lowest selling price travel product and other travel products that meet the input
criteria for the same date, the lowest selling price travel product and the other travel
products being sorted into fare families.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising
displaying for each fare family only a pre-established number of travel products that
meet the input criteria, starting with [[the]] a travel product having the lowest selling
price amount.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the input criteria
include comprise a journey origin, a journey destination and a non-zero number of
departure dates.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising creating
a plurality of commercial classes of fare families in the fare family database, each
commercial class combining at least one group of fare families with a predetermined
geographic market for a predetermined number of travel dates.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising
selecting at least one commercial class of fare families and processing the user request
only for the travel products included in the at least one commercial class of fare families.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising making the selection of the at least one commercial class of fare families via a user station input.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising making the selection of the at least one commercial class of fare families by an administrator.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

assigning a hierarchical rank to each fare family in the fare family database for each commercial class of fare families, and

displaying at the user station information relating to the travel products that meet the input criteria in the order of their hierarchical rank.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the determination rules comprise, for each fare family, a set of attributes that a fare class must have to be associated with the said fare family.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising accessing the data in the fare family database in real time.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the travel products are air flights that are included in a domestic or international market.

20. Cancelled

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, where the travel products are air flights, further comprising displaying simultaneously to the user travel products of a

plurality of fare families and displaying a flight number associated with each travel product.

22. (New) A computer reservation system, comprising:

at least one data processor connected with at least one memory that stores software executable by the at least one data processor, where execution of the software by the at least one data processor causes the computer reservation system to,

create a fare family database defining a plurality of fare families each comprised of a plurality of fare classes, the fare family database containing determination rules for determining an association of at least one fare family for each fare class, each fare class being defined according to commercial parameters and services,

receive from a user station a user request for information relating to travel products comprised of priced travel solutions for at least one travel date,

search at least a travel segment database and a fare database for travel solutions meeting input criteria of the user request to determine a selling price amount associated with each travel solution in accordance with an associated fare class to form identified travel products comprised of priced travel solutions,

access the determination rules contained in the fare family database,

apply the determination rules to the identified travel products to determine a fare family associated with each identified travel product,

sort the identified travel products by their associated determined fare family,

build a reply to the user request, said reply configured to produce a display of data
relating to those identified travel products that meet the input criteria, the display of data
comprising, for each identified travel product, a selling price amount, the identified travel
products being sorted in the display into fare families each comprised of a plurality of
fare classes; and

output the reply for display to a user that originated the user request.

23. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where the user
request includes several dates, and where execution of the software by the at least one
data processor further causes the computer reservation system to:

identify a lowest selling price travel product that meets the input criteria and has the
lowest selling price amount for each travel date,

return information relating to the lowest selling price travel products to the user station,
for display,

in response to the user selecting one of the lowest selling price travel products
displayed, receive a request for detailed information from the user station in connection
with the selected lowest selling price travel product,

return to the user station for display a reply containing information relating to the
selected lowest selling price travel product and other travel products that meet the input
criteria for the same date, the lowest selling price travel product and the other travel
products being sorted into fare families.

24. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where execution of
the software by the at least one data processor further causes the computer reservation
system to:

display for each fare family only a pre-established number of travel products that meet the input criteria, starting with a travel product having the lowest selling price amount.

25. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where the input criteria comprise a journey origin, a journey destination and a non-zero number of departure dates.

26. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where execution of the software by the at least one data processor further causes the computer reservation system to:

create a plurality of commercial classes of fare families in the fare family database, each commercial class combining at least one group of fare families with a predetermined geographic market for a predetermined number of travel dates.

27. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 26, where execution of the software by the at least one data processor further causes the computer reservation system to:

select at least one commercial class of fare families and process the user request only for the travel products included in the at least one commercial class of fare families.

28. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 27, where execution of the software by the at least one data processor further causes the computer reservation system to:

make the selection of the at least one commercial class of fare families via a user station input from an administrator.

29. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where execution of the software by the at least one data processor further causes the computer reservation system to:

assign a hierarchical rank to each fare family in the fare family database for each commercial class of fare families, and

display at the user station information relating to the travel products that meet the input criteria in the order of their hierarchical rank.

30. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where the determination rules comprise, for each fare family, a set of attributes that a fare class must have to be associated with the said fare family.

31. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where execution of the software by the at least one data processor further causes the computer reservation system to access the data in the fare family database in real time.

32. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, where the travel products are air flights that are included in a domestic or international market, and where the data comprises a flight number for each travel product, the display rendering simultaneously visible to the user the user travel products of a plurality of fare families.

33. (New) The computer reservation system according to claim 22, further comprising an interface to a web server interacting with a navigation program residing in the user station to implement a graphic user interface with the user station.

Specification

At page 9, line 16: Figures 10 and 11<u>a and 11b, collectively referred to as Figure</u>

<u>11</u>, show such fare solutions with the fixing of fares for each origin/destination pair.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Examiner is unaware of any prior art which teaches or suggests the steps of "creating by a computer reservation system, a fare family database defining a plurality of fare families each comprised of a plurality of fare classes, the fare family database containing determination rules for determining an association of at least one fare family for each fare class...", and "applying with a fare fixing engine of the computer reservation system the determination rules to the identified travel product to determine a fare family associated with each identified travel product".

Although low cost fare searching, at the time of applicants invention, was well known in the art, including the ability to low cost fare search by travel class (for example, first or business or economy class), and then by fare class enumerated under travel class (for example, F or C or Y fare classes) (see for example, Jaehn et al. (US 2003/0125994) or Ratliff et al. (US 2003//078836), examiner knows of no art which teaches fare families of fare classes.

The closest prior art of record includes Gunn et al. (US 2008/0027765) which fails to beat applicants earliest filing date, and Brice et al. (US 2004/0128193) which teaches merchandising.

Examiner notes that although the idea of merchandising fare classes and/or attribute selling fare classes appears to be found in the market place (for example, Canada Air), examiner cannot find any relevant art which teaches the above quoted limitations prior to applicants filing date.

Examiner also respectfully notes fare class and travel class indicators, although searchable do not require fare family definitions or the application of fare family determination rules since both fare classes and travel classes are already separately identified in travel/fare databases.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN EPSTEIN whose telephone number is (571)270-5389. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. E./
Examiner, Art Unit
July 16, 2010

/JOHN W HAYES/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628